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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet and East German Army
Activities in the Schorfheide
Training Area

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report concerning Soviet and East German National People's Army (NVA/H) activities in the Schorfheide training area between 8 and 14 March 1957. The report describes movements of troops on foot and by vehicle and the equipment which they had. The report also states that it is rumored that the telephone and trunk exchange of the Soviet Army for the Eberswalde area is in the immediate vicinity of the Biesenthal railroad station.

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

SECRETEAST GERMANY

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MILITARYEAST GERMAN ARMY & SOVIET ARMY ACTIVITIES IN SCHORFHEIDE TRAINING AREA(8 - 14 March 1957)**SECRET**A. EAST GERMAN ARMY

1. 8 Mar 57 Two groups, each of 21 men of the EGA, marched at 11.30 hrs. from GROSS SCHÖNEBECK towards GROSS DÖLLN. They were dressed in field marching order with steel helmets. Three men each had one light machine gun on their shoulders, and two men were carrying one heavy machine gun between them. The remainder carried rifles or machine pistols with round magazines.
2. The light machine guns are described as follows:-
 - (a) Calibre about 10 mm.
 - (b) Funnel-shaped muzzle.
 - (c) Diameter of cooling jacket about 40 mm. with circular cooling holes.
 - (d) Bipod stand.
3. The heavy MG is described as follows:-
 - (a) Calibre at least 122 mm.
 - (b) Funnel-shaped muzzle, but diameter less than of the light machine guns.
 - (c) Portable trail with small iron wheels (diam. 15/20 cm) and a shield. In the middle of the shield there is a vertical slot for the barrel, and a sighting-hole on the right.
 - (d) The machine guns and the trail with the shield were carried separately by two men.
4. 14 Mar 57 Twenty-five men from the EGA marched at 8.15 hrs from the direction of ZERPENSCHLEUSE towards GROSS SCHÖNEBECK. They were equipped with steel helmets, trenching tools, rolled up blankets, and bag for atomic protective clothing. Seventeen men carried rifles, three men machine pistols with round magazines, and three men each one light machine gun as described in para 2 above.
5. [redacted] members of the EGA drove at 1500 hrs from the direction of GROSS DÖLLN through GROSS SCHÖNEBECK towards ZERPENSCHLEUSE. They were field marching order with steel helmets etc., and were dirty. [redacted] there was a radio-case with an aerial about 2 m. long when extended. One man was sitting by this radio wearing head-phones.

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B. SOVIET ARMY

6. It is rumoured that the telephone and trunk exchange of the Soviet Army for the EBERSWALDE area is in the immediate vicinity of the railway station at BIESENTHAL.

7. 6 Mar 57 2 x T34/85 and 2 x JS3 were seen at 12.20 hrs between GROSS SCHÖNEBECK and GROSS DÖLLN.

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8. 12 Mar 57 The following vehicles, which all had white discs on their rear, drove in convoy at 13.00 hrs from GROSS SCHÖNEBECK towards GROSS DÖLLN:-

- (a) 5 APC 6 x 6, each with twelve men, with red insignia and without machine guns. The vehicles had round vertical aerials about 3 m. high to the right of the driver's cabin, and in front of this aerial on the mudguard a horizontal aerial about 0.75 m. high (about 2 cm. wide and 4 cm. thick).
- (b) 4 two-axled armoured reconnaissance cars (WHITE) with single barrelled machine guns mounted in the centre of the front. Each vehicle had about ten men with red SBs.
- (c) 8 [] planks and joists.
- (d) 1 [] field kitchen.
- (e) 1 workshop [] with a smoking chimney, two grilled windows on each side and two grilled windows in the door on the back of the body of the vehicle.
- (f) 1 ZIS-151 with closed bodywork and a red cross sign.

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9. The following vehicles which also had white discs on the rear followed in convoy on the same day between ZERPENSCHLEUSE and GROSS SCHÖNEBECK:-

- (a) 2 [] two-axled trailers, laden with used tyres.
- (b) 1 [] a new motor in a crate.
- (c) 2 [] trailers containing new mudguards.
- (d) 2 [] 1 two-axled trailer, containing body-parts []

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10. 4 Mar 57 The following vehicles passed through GROSS SCHÖNEBECK from the direction of GROSS DÖLLN in the direction of ZERPENSCHLEUSE at 10.30 hrs:-

- (a) 6 [] beds, trunks etc.
- (b) 1 [] closed body containing civilian Russian women and children.

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